



2005 Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Customer Focus

Bob's father started the farm in 1923, and he and his family have been farming ever since. The farm is located in the town of Glocester. Bob raises beef cows and pigs, and produces hay and vegetables.

Bob contacted NRCS for help with manure management. As a result, Bob installed an Agricultural Waste Management Plan that consisted of several practices that keep rainwater away from the cow manure, to reduce the amount of water needing filtration. First, gutters were installed on the barn to divert water away from heavy use areas. His gravel road was graded to keep the flow of water away from the cow manure. The manure is now stored in a covered area over a cement slab; here the manure is allowed to dry and later distributed as fertilizer as needed in his fields, based on soil test recommendations.

Water that passes through the heavy use area is treated by a leach field system after solids have been removed by a screening process. This operates similar to a leach field used in a conventional septic system.

Bob's choices for farm conservation help to prevent any contamination from entering the State of Rhode Island's primary source of drinking water.

Bob has plans for the future to continue working on conservation. He plans to develop two fields for pasture rotation and to remove Multi Flora Rose, an invasive species. When Bob retires, his son Mark plans to continue the farming operation with other family members.

Rhode Island Summary

Overview

Despite Rhode Island's small size, agriculture in the state is as diverse as in our neighboring states. The EQIP program addresses problems that reflect that diversity. While there are over 800 farming operations in Rhode Island, a state with just over 600,000 total acres, many of these farms are operated by producers who work full-time off the farm. As such, NRCS has worked with its partners to develop the EQIP program to meet the needs of both the full-time commercial farmers as well as the smaller "hobby" farms that are becoming more common. NRCS has benefited Rhode Island's natural resources by installing: improved irrigation systems that conserve water, alternate sources of water for large volume irrigators that enhance riparian systems; comprehensive nutrient management systems that include waste storage, land application, and fencing; and a variety of land management practices to protect water quality.

Accomplishments

In 2005, Rhode Island experienced a large jump in both the number and financial value of EQIP applications. Fortunately, with the passage of the 2002 Farm Bill, we were able to meet many of those requests. Twenty-eight new contracts were selected for funding from the 60 applications received, at an average cost of \$54,540 per contract, obligating \$1,527,139 of federal cost share assistance. The vast majority of the contracts address livestock related concerns, such as manure storage and fencing animals out of wet areas. Several contracts also address irrigation water management systems, including the source of water, delivery of water to the field, and application of water. Many other contracts address erosion control on cropland and forestland. In total, Rhode Island developed 28 EQIP contracts,

Outlook

Deer abound on Rhode Island's farms and forests, yet the suburban nature of many communities restricts hunting. Deer predation on farm crops results in significant losses to agricultural producers. As such, the EQIP program will be expanded to allow for fencing high value crops. Continued funding for EQIP in Rhode Island will help ensure their ability to farm profitably. In addition, EQIP will be enhanced to provide greater opportunities to private forest landowners and tribes to enhance wildlife habitat, control invasive species and improve natural regeneration of high value or culturally significant species.

State Contact

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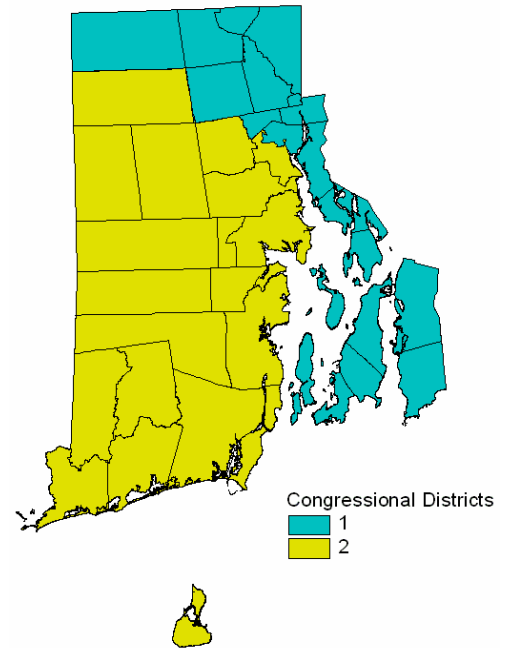


Before, the waste management system.



After, the installation of the covered system.

Rhode Island's EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District



Rhode Island EQIP Dollars and Contracts

<u>Fiscal Year 2005</u>			<u>Cumulative Total (97-05)</u>	
Congressional Districts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$1,031,082	13	\$2,434,827	55
District 2	\$496,057	15	\$2,300,186	77
State Totals	\$1,527,139	28	\$4,735,013	132

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